Strategy for crop diversification

603. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for encouraging farmers to diversify from traditional crops;

(b) if so, whether those crops have been identified;

(c) whether any region-wise strategy has been chalked out for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government is emphasizing crop diversification keeping in view the soil health problems being encountered by growing exhaustive crops like cereals followed by cereals. Crop diversification is also advocated so that the farmers can get remunerative prices.

The research system of ICAR as well as SAUs are carrying out research for crop diversification. A number of Pulse & Oils seed crops have been identified and released by the ICAR for diversification of cereal based cropping systems in different regions of the country. The recommendations thus made are being shared with the State Governments during National Conferences being organised by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation well before Kharif & Rabi seasons. Besides, the ICAR is also conducting Frontline Demonstrations for the benefit of the farmers.

Benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

604. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) the number of farmers availing of this scheme;

(c) the target of Government in the next three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to spread its message so that more and more farmers are benefited?